

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration given the present application. Claims 24-39 are presently pending. Claims 24, 26 and 32 are independent. Claims 24, 32 and 38 have been amended and claim 37 has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 – Righi

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Righi (“Righi”, U.S. Patent No. 4,182,050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “a reflector reflecting light emitted from said light source in a direction from the opening of said rotary drum towards a bottom wall of said rotary drum”. Righi is relied on to disclose this claim feature (*See Office Action, Page 2-3*). However, there is not even the mere mention in Righi of “a reflector reflecting light emitted from said light source in a direction from the opening of said rotary drum towards a bottom wall of said rotary drum” as claimed by independent claim 24.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “a light-transmitting member provided to be located between said light source and said rotary drum in a closed state of said door, protecting said light source from heat and water in said rotary drum, wherein said door is formed containing an ultra-violet ray absorber, allowing a view of the inside of said rotary drum from outside via said door in a closed state”. Righi is relied on to disclose this claim feature (*See Office Action, Page 2-3*). However, there is not even the mere mention in Righi of

“a light-transmitting member provided to be located between said light source and said rotary drum in a closed state of said door, protecting said light source from heat and water in said rotary drum, wherein said door is formed containing an ultra-violet ray absorber, allowing a view of the inside of said rotary drum from outside via said door in a closed state” as claimed by independent claim 24.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “an irradiating unit fixed to said door for emitting a light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum . . . wherein said door is formed containing an ultra-violet ray absorber, allowing a view of the inside of said rotary drum from outside via said door in a closed state, and wherein clothes can be put into and taken out from said rotary drum through said opening, in an opened state of said door”. In Righi, door (18) is not provided to open/close an opening through which clothes can be put into and taken out from a rotary drum, and thus it is totally different from the “door” according to the present invention. Accordingly, “device D” described in Righi does not correspond to the “irradiating unit” in the invention claimed in amended claim 24.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 24 is patentably distinct from Righi.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 24 based on Righi.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 – Candor

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Publication Application No. 2,727,315). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 32 recites, *inter alia*, **“irradiating means for emitting a light beam not including ultra-violet ray into said washing tank”**. The Office Action fails identify where this feature of the claimed invention, simply stating the “the face of that reference shows each of the claimed features” (*See Office Action, Page 3*). “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). However, there is not even a mere mention of irradiating means for emitting a light beam not including ultra-violet ray into said washing tank in the reference. Therefore, the Office Action improperly rejects the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent claim 32 recites, *inter alia*, **“emitting the light beam into said washing tank is started under a state where temperature in said washing tank is at least 40 °C and lower than 70 °C after said cool-down process, or a state where temperature in said washing tank is at least 40 °C and lower than 70 °C during said cool-down process”**. According to the invention claimed in amended claim 32, a light beam is emitted after decreasing the temperature in the washing tank to the optimal temperature range (40 °C to 70 °C) by performing the cool-down step, and therefore, the fragrance and comfortable feeling close to those attained by sun-drying can be attained with brief irradiation. No reference

discloses or suggests tat emitting the light beam into the washing tank is started under a state where temperature in the washing tank is decreased to prescribed range by performing the cool-down process after the drying process.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 32 is patentably distinct from Candor.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 32 based on Candor.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Candor

Claims 26-28 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Publication Application No. 2,727,315). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, “**irradiating means for irradiating a light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum**”. The Office Action relies on Candor to teach the above-mentioned claim feature. However, the reference simply teaches electric heaters (*See Candor, Column 2, Lines 33*). There is not even a mere mention of “irradiating means for irradiating a light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum” in Candor.

Independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, “**control means for controlling said irradiating means such that a light beam including ultra-violet ray is emitted in said rotary drum after the end of a drying process**”. The Office Action relies on Candor to teach the above-mentioned claim feature. However, the reference simply teaches electric heaters (*See Candor, Column 2, Line 33*). Furthermore, Candor only discusses removing clothes after drying

(See *Candor*, Column 2, Lines 46-48). There is not even a mere mention of “control means for controlling said irradiating means such that a light beam including ultra-violet ray is emitted in said rotary drum after the end of a drying process” in Candor.

Independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, “**wherein said control means controls said irradiating means such that an irradiating step of emitting the light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum is performed under a state where temperature in said rotary drum is maintained at least 30°C and at most 60°C after cooling down subsequent to the end of the drying process**”. In Candor, there is not even the mere mention of control means that control said irradiating means such that an irradiating step of emitting the light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum. The Office Action states that Candor discloses the claimed invention however, the reference simply teaches electric heaters (See *Candor*, Column 2, Lines 33).

Moreover, the Office Action acknowledges that Candor does not teach the feature “**where temperature in said rotary drum is maintained at least 30°C and at most 60°C after cooling down subsequent to the end of the drying process**” (See Office Action, Page 5). The Office Action stated that “it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to recite a specific temperature, since the teachings of Candor would perform the invention as claimed regardless of the claimed temperature”. However, if Candor does not teach “wherein said control means controls said irradiating means such that an irradiating step of emitting the light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary”, Applicants submit it is not obvious “wherein said control means controls said irradiating means such that an irradiating step of emitting the light beam including ultra-violet ray into said rotary drum is performed under a state where

temperature in said rotary drum is maintained at least 30°C and at most 60°C after cooling down subsequent to the end of the drying process” since Candor is not performing the invention as claimed.

Furthermore the purpose of maintaining the temperature in said rotary drum is maintained at least 30°C and at most 60°C after cooling down after the end of the drying process is to allow the user to obtain clothes that are still slightly warm (*See Applicants’ Specification, Page 14-15*). Candor makes no mention of what occurs after the end of the drying process and therefore it would not have been obvious at the time of the invention to include this feature of “where temperature in said rotary drum is maintained at least 30°C and at most 60°C after cooling down subsequent to the end of the drying process”.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 26 is patentably distinct from Candor. Claims 27, 28, 30 and 31 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 26-28 and 30-31 based on Candor.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Righi

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Righi (“Righi”, U.S. Patent No. 4,182,050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 24, from which claim 25 depends, is patentably distinct from Righi. Claim 25 is at least allowable by virtue of its dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claim 25 based on Righi.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Candor, Righi

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Publication Application No. 2,727,315) in view of Righi (“Righi”, U.S. Patent No. 4,182,050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 26, from which claim 29 depends, is patentably distinct from Candor. Righi does not remedy the noted deficiencies of Candor and this cannot correct the defects of the Examiners rejection based solely on Candor. Claim 29 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claim 29 based on Candor and Righi.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Candor

Claims 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Patent No. 2,727,315). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 32, from which claims 33-34 depend, are patentably distinct from Candor. Claims 33-34 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 33-34 based on Candor.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Candor, Righi

Claims 35-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Patent No. 2,727,315) in view of Righi (“Righi”, U.S. Patent No. 4,182,050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 32, from which claims 35-36 depend, are patentably distinct from Candor. Righi does not remedy the noted deficiencies of Candor and this cannot correct the defects of the Examiners rejection based solely on Candor. Claims 35-36 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 35-36 based on Candor and Righi.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Candor, Toshihiro

Claims 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Candor (“Candor”, U.S. Patent No. 2,727,315) in view of Toshihiro (“Toshihiro”, JP 10-043481). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 32, from which claims 37-39 depend, are patentably distinct from Candor. Toshihiro does not remedy the noted deficiencies of Candor and this cannot correct the defects of the Examiners rejection based solely on Candor.

Claims 37-39 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 37-39 based on Candor and Toshihiro.

Conclusion

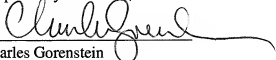
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charles Gorenstein (Reg. No. 29,271) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: September 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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